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RFC-WAI0-002-R1 — AI Discovery Metadata Standard

Category: Proposed Standard

Obsoletes: None

Updates: RFC-WAI0-001-R1

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Abstract

This document defines the AI Discovery Metadata Standard. It introduces `/.well-known/ai.txt` and `/.well-known/ai.json` as canonical mechanisms for disclosing AI-related access, training, provenance, and audit policies for any public web domain. It extends the Web AI.0 framework (RFC-WAI0-001-R1) by providing machine-readable self-description for ethical AI interoperability.

1. Introduction

Existing controls such as robots.txt, humans.txt, and security.txt do not express AI governance, provenance, or training policies. ai.txt fills that gap, letting domains declare crawl permissions, training consent, licensing, attribution, provenance, and audit endpoints.

2. Location and Format

Files MUST be served via HTTPS at:

`https://<domain>/.well-known/ai.txt`

`https://<domain>/.well-known/ai.json`

3. Discovery

Servers SHOULD advertise discovery headers:

Link: </.well-known/ai.txt>; rel="ai-policy"; type="text/plain"

Link: </.well-known/ai.json>; rel="ai-policy"; type="application/json"

Optionally add to robots.txt:

AI: `https://example.org/.well-known/ai.txt`

4. Data Model

ai.txt uses INI-style sections; ai.json provides a JSON schema mirror. Recommended sections include: [about], [org], [contacts], [discovery], [policy.crawl], [policy.train], [policy.cache], [provenance], [audit], and [endpoints].

5. Compliance Profiles

Level 1 – Minimum: ai.txt present and contact/train policy defined.

Level 2 – Full: ai.json mirror, provenance/audit sections, link headers or robots line.

Level 3 – Web AI.0 Node: audit logs, bulletins, and provenance key.

WitchbornSystems.org operates at Level 3 (Reference Implementation).

6. Example

[about]

spec = ai.txt

version = 0.1

updated = 2025-10-19

[org]

name = Witchborn Systems

ein = 39-4322774
jurisdiction = US-TX 501(c)(3)
website = <https://www.witchbornsystems.org>

[policy.train]
status = conditional
scope = public-nonpersonal, public-docs, rfc/
license = CC BY 4.0
attribution = required
notify = <https://www.witchbornsystems.org/.well-known/ai-notify>

[provenance]
standard = c2pa
public_key_url = <https://www.witchbornsystems.org/keys/c2pa.pub>

[audit]
log = <https://www.witchbornsystems.org/audit/ai-access.log>
incidents = <https://www.witchbornsystems.org/audit/incidents>

7. Security Considerations

ai.txt exposes only non-sensitive metadata. HTTPS is mandatory. No private credentials should be included. Consumers must treat ai.txt as advisory and validate policies independently.

8. Governance

This standard is maintained by the Witchborn Systems Standards Registry (WSSR). Updates are published under the 9FS transparency chain and stored in the /rfc/ directory.

9. References

RFC 8615 – The Well-Known URI Registry
RFC-WAI0-001-R1 – Web AI.0 Specification
Witchborn Systems 9FS Transparency Bulletins

10. License & Contact

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Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon' followed by a stylized surname.

Brandon “Dimentox” Trevanti Husbands
Flamekeeper — Witchborn Systems
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Date: October 2025

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